

## FRANCE KNOWS THE ONLY WAY TO GET PEACE IS TO WIN IT

Germany's Hypocritical Peace Talk Deceives No One in That Country.

## ONE MIND ON THAT POINT

They All Stand on Patriotic Henry's Platform, Say the Chesters.

This is the Seventeenth Chester article on France today. George Randolph Chester, the world's greatest reporter and author of the famous "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" stories, was sent to France to get these stories exclusively for The West Virginian and other members of the Newspaper Enterprise Association. They will appear in no other Fairmont Newspaper.

By GEORGE RANDOLPH CHESTER. (Copyright, 1918, by the Newspaper Enterprise Association.)

PARIS, March 8.—A man who should have known better, or whose sympathies were in the wrong place, said, in the cabinet of certain high officials here, that Germany was in a worse way than anyone knew, and that when she came forward with offers of peace, humanity should prompt the allies to listen.

There was a moment of rather awkward silence, in which brows knotted and lips straightened and faces grew tense; then one French gentleman who have a very important position in the government, who has 25 male relatives dead in this war, whose infirmity alone prevents him from completing the number with 25, and who spent years enough in America to talk that language fluently, turned slowly in his chair and said:

"If a German came to me with an offer of peace, I would knock him senseless immediately and turn him over to see whether he had a gas bomb or a plain bludgeon concealed behind him when he held out the olive branch.

There will never be any bona-fide German offer of peace until it is coupled with an appeal for mercy, and even then the appeal is more than likely to be an attempt at deception.

"Germany talked peace with Russia across the trenches until the resistance of Russia was weakened, and her first acts, when she considered Russia's supine, were acts of greed and contempt.

"Her soldiers talked peace with the soldiers of Italy across the trenches while they were preparing for the offensive which would all that Italy had poured out her best blood to attain.

"And each of Germany's peace talks across the diplomatic trenches had in view the same object: to weaken the determination of one or another of the allies, or to cause a split among them.

"The replies of Count Hertling and Count Czernin to the speeches of President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George were the most insolent of all in their assumption of stupidity on the part of the allies.

"Promptly on receipt of these replies, it was announced, in this room, that, in the opinion of France, neither in the speech of the German chancellor nor in the Czernin speech was there any hope of peace, or even one definite answer to the very definite proposals of President Wilson; that Count Hertling's speech was notable for the absence, for the first time, in any recent speech of a German chancellor, of the words 'without annexation and without indemnity'.

"It is now known that at the very time of the making of those speeches, the practical seizure and partition of Belgium had been decided upon, in detail, by Germany.

"In the statement of Count Hertling regarding Belgium, it was insisted upon that the whole Belgian question, in general and in detail, must be left for agreement during the peace negotiations.

"In other words, it has frankly and clearly set forth that the fate of Belgium would not be made a matter of right and justice, but a matter of bargaining.

"Count Hertling was equally clear when he referred to the north of France, and calmly called attention to the fact that the occupied portions of French territory are now an important asset in Germany's hands, and that their evacuation must take the vital interests of Germany into account.

"Again the assumption of an imperialistic conqueror, the insinuation that the victors belong the spoils. Falsified history was used to support that position, and take away the baldness of it.

"There was nothing in Count Hertling's speech in recognition of the Italian national claims, nothing recognizing the rights of the Balkan states to exist as states, nothing recognizing the right to free national existence in the states held under the ruthless domination of Turkey, nothing to deny the intention of maintaining a high-handed imperialistic sway from Antwerp to

### PEACE VAUDEVILLE.

Oh, have some peace.  
The German cried:  
Unload your gun.  
Sit by my side.  
We're all so sad  
And starved and lean.  
And here's a wal-  
lop on your bean!

Bagdad, and over all between.

"The fate of Poland, Mr. Wilson and the allies were coolly told, must be left to Germany, Austria and Poland, and with characteristic insolence no mention of Russia was made in this important matter; for Russia was already treated as a crushed and conquered territory, to be done with as the conquerors saw fit.

"It was broadly intimated by Count Hertling that Germany will not consent to an international disarmament. The other nations may disarm, but not Germany.

"It was broadly threatened that an economic alliance against Germany will bring on another war, and the plan was broadly repudiated that, after an international peace is declared, there may be a closing of the sea or any part of it in order to quell obstreperous violators of the peace of the world.

"In the code of Germany, as in the code of every other criminal, there must be no punishment of criminals.

"Germany, however, eagerly suggests that it would be of great importance to the freedom of the seas to do away with such strongly fortified bases as those possessed by England at Gibraltar, Malta and elsewhere, a condition which would be tantamount to the removal of all policemen and the destruction of all street lights.

"Furthermore, the only notice Count Hertling took of the proposal to adjust colonial claims was a clumsy attempt to urge an embolism between England and the United States over their several interests.

"Where, in all this, is there the most remote approach toward the possibility of peace?

"The entire speech of Count Hertling was only another form of diplomatic war, and its only object, taken in conjunction with the speech of Count Czernin, was to cause a split among the allies.

"President Wilson considered the future, and his proposals were characterized by the full sincerity of the author. Count Hertling's speech was characterized by the full integrity of Ludendorff and Hindenburg.

"As for the speech of Count Czernin, with its subsequent falsehoods about prior presentation to President Wilson, that was another matter. Hertling and Czernin had distributed their roles already in this vaudeville; Hertling the tragedy, Czernin the comedy.

"Jointly, they agreed with every word of President Wilson's which was capable of a indefinite construction; and jointly they evaded any concrete disposal of any subject in which any

one of the central powers might have any separate interest, which chases the subject around in a fruitless circle like a stumpled dog after a flea.

"Separately, Count Czernin wanted peace. The people of Austria-Hungary wanted peace. The emperor of Austria-Hungary wanted peace. The emperor wanted peace.

"And if only the United States would stop its war preparations instantly, which it did not, would only stop hurrying men and ammunition and supplies to France, which it did not, would only let the allies swim weakly along by themselves for a while, which the United States did not contemplate, and would only hold a pleasant little conversation with Austria-Hungary, which it did not, Count Czernin was certain that sweet peace would result, not only for the two parties concerned, in the little chat, but for all the world.

"A childish bit of comedy, calculated only to weaken the support of the allies, to tempt the people of the United States not to hurry with its intervention in this most appalling military drama of the world.

"Meantime, with the support of the United States withheld, the Central Powers might, with good fortune, smash the thus-weakened allies.

"No doubt the speech of Count Czernin was hailed with hope in Austria-Hungary, and pleased the people there as it was meant to do; and if Austria-Hungary were in a position to discuss peace, Count Czernin's monologue, which Germany permitted to be given to the world, remember, might have been serious, rather than a jingle of buffoonery.

"But Austria-Hungary cannot, under any circumstances, discuss peace without the sanction of Germany.

"The Austro-Hungarian treasury has been brought to Berlin. All the Austro-Hungarian gold is in German vaults.

"Many of the important Austro-Hungarian newspapers have been recently bought by Germany.

"The German ambassador in Vienna controls all of the foreign affairs of Austria-Hungary.

"Even at the small railway stations often a German official controls the Austrian officials.

"So Count Czernin's speech, in all its fundamental principles, enunciated exactly the same attitude of Count Hertling's speech, in spite of the words with which it was clothed.

"France was in no doubt about the intentions of Counts Czernin and Hertling, either severally or in conjunction. Hertling spoke as a soldier, Czernin as a diplomat, but both conveyed the imperial will of those military masters of Germany, Ludendorff and Hindenburg.

"SO WE MUST NOT BE DECEIVED.

"The poisonous monster which seeks to destroy the world must have its fangs removed and its body eared before any of us can sleep in safety.

"Peace? The world cries for peace, but there is only one way

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to secure it. We must win it, for it is impossible to bargain with a liar. We must win our peace, and it is better to die than to fail!

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A peace which the masters of Germany would encourage now would result in the ultimate slavery of mankind; and better oblivion.

Never was anything more unanimous than the undaunted spirit of France; never anything quite equally unanimous except the unquenchable desire for freedom in the breasts of the great

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Dr. M. C. Lyons.

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